

In July 2006, the Form CMS-1500 (12-90) was revised by the National Uniform Claim Committee (NUCC) predominantly for the purpose of accommodating the National Provider Identifier. Since that time, the industry has been preparing for the implementation of the revised Form CMS-1500 (08-05). In September 2006, Medicare announced that it would implement the revised Form CMS-1500 (08-05) on January 1, 2007 with dual acceptability of both versions until March 31, 2007. Beginning April 1, 2007, the only acceptable version of the form would be the Form CMS-1500 (08-05) and that the prior version, Form CMS-1500 (12-90), would be rejected.

It has recently come to our attention that there are incorrectly formatted versions of the revised form being sold by print vendors, specifically the Government Printing Office (GPO). After reviewing the situation, the GPO has determined that the source files they received from the NUCC's authorized forms designer were improperly formatted. This resulted in the sale of both printed forms and negatives which do not comply with the form specifications.

Given the circumstances, CMS has decided to extend the acceptance period of the Form CMS-1500 (12-90) version beyond the original April 1, 2007 deadline while this situation is resolved. Contractors will be directed to continue to accept the Form CMS-1500 (12-90) until notified by CMS to cease. At present, we are targeting June 1, 2007 as that date. However, formal communications in the form of a Change Request and Med Learn Matters article will follow shortly. In addition, during the interim contractors will be directed to return, not manually key, any Form CMS-1500 (08-05) forms received which are not printed to specification. By returning the incorrectly formatted claim forms back to you, we are able to make you aware of the situation which will allow you to begin communications with your form supplier.

The following will help you to properly identify which form is which. The old version of the form contains "Approved OMB-0938-0008 FORM CMS-1500 (12-90)" on the bottom of the form (typically on the lower right corner) signifying the version is the December 1990 version. The revised version contains "Approved OMB-0938-0999 FORM CMS-1500 (08-05)" on the bottom of the form signifying the version is the August 2005 version. The best way to identify if your CMS-1500 (08-05) version forms are correct is by looking at the upper right hand corner of the form. On properly formatted claim forms, there will be approximately a 1/4" gap between the tip of the red arrow above the vertically stacked word "CARRIER" and the top edge of the paper. If the tip of the red arrow is touching or close to touching the top edge of the paper, then the form is not printed to specifications.

It is important to note that this issue involves the implementation of the new Form CMS-1500 (08-05) only and does not impact the May 23, 2007 implementation date of the NPI.

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